

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CAIRO 19186 171756Z

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----023376 180050Z /66

R 171620Z NOV 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1802
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

S E C R E T CAIRO 19186
EXDIS
E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EG SY
SUBJ: SADAT ON HIS TALKS WITH ASSAD

1. MET WITH SADAT TODAY IN ISMAILIA. HE HAD
RETURNED FROM DAMASCUS ONLY A FEW MINUTES BEFORE.
ASKED HOW HIS VISIT HAD GONE, SADAT SAID IT HAD GONE WELL,
BUT FEW DETAILS HE PROVIDED SUGGEST NO MEETING OF THE
MINDS EMERGED.

2. SADAT REITERATED THAT HE HAD HAD FIVE HOUR MEETING
WITH ASSAD YESTERDAY AND DINED LAST EVENING WITH ASSAD AND
LATTERS'S FAMILY. THEY HAD HAD FURTHER TALKS THIS
MORNING BEFORE DEPARTURE. ASSAD, HE SAID, DISAGREES
WITH HIM ON SADAT'S INTENTION GO TO JERUSALEM. ASSAD
BELIEVES NOTHING WILL COME OUT OF SUCH A VISIT AND THAT IT
WILL SIMPLY HURT ARAB CAUSE. HE, SADAT, HAD TOLD ASSAD
THAT HE DOES NOT SHARE THAT VIEW. WHILE RECOGNIZING
RISKS IN SUCH A TRIP, HE WAS HOPEFUL THAT ISRAELIS
MIGHT BE "PUT IN A CORNER" AND PEACE PROCESS FURTHERED.
HE AND ASSAD HAD IN EFFECT AGREED TO DISAGREE. SADAT
OPINED THAT ASSAD HAS CHANGED SINCE SINAI II. HE IS

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NOW TOTALLY DEPENDENT ON BA'ATH PARTY AND HAS LOST ANY
FLEXIBILITY HE MIGHT ONCE HAVE HAD. IN HIS PRESS
CONFERENCE PRIOR TO DEPARTURE, SADAT HAD PUBLICLY
NOTED THAT HE AND ASSAD DISAGREE ON THE MATTER OF HIS
GOING TO ISRAEL.

3. ASKED FOR HIS IMPRESSION ON HOW ASSAD VIEWS POSSIBLE

GENEVA CONFERENCE, SADAT SAID ON THIS, TOO, HE AND THE SYRIAN PRESIDENT HAD DISAGREED. SADAT HAD URGED THAT SYRIANS DESIST FROM PROCEDURAL HAGGLING AND JOIN EGYPTIANS IN LOOKING FOR WAYS TO GET TO GENEVA SOONEST. ONLY IN THIS WAY COULD SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES BE TACKLED. ASSAD REMAINED UNCONVINCED AND CONTINUED TO INSIST UPON PRIOR COMMITMENTS BEFORE AGREEING TO GO TO GENEVA. SADAT HOPED ASSAD WOULD RECONSIDER HIS POSITION. WHETHER OR NOT ASSAD DOES SO, SADAT SAID HE WILL CONTINUE HIS EFFORTS TO DISPENSE WITH PROCEDURAL HAGGLING AND GET TO GENEVA WITHOUT DELAY. THIS WAS PRINCIPAL REASON FOR HIS UPCOMING TRIP TO ISRAEL.

4. THIS WAS EXTENT OF HIS COMMENTS ON HIS TALKS WITH ASSAD.
EILTS

NOTE BY OC/T: EXDIS CAPTION ADDED PER S/S-O - MS WEINLAND.

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, CHIEF OF STATE VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 17-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am
Decapton Date: 22 May 2009
Decapton Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977CAIRO19186
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770427-0216
Format: TEL
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771149/aaaabpip.tel
Line Count: 78
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b571b117-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 554775
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SADAT ON HIS TALKS WITH ASSAD
TAGS: OVIP, PDEV, EG, SY, IS, (SADAT, ANWAR), (AL-ASSAD, HAFIZ), (EILTS, HERMANN F)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b571b117-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009